AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:

an elongate member extending along a longitudinal axis and including a deformable distal portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and an expanded configuration wherein said deformable distal portion is outwardly deformed to define at least one transverse projection, each of said at least one transverse projection arranged along a single transverse axis, and wherein formation of said transverse projections is directionally controlled such that each of said transverse projections extends in a uni-axial direction aligned with said single transverse axis such that at least a portion of the spinal structure is uniaxially displaced along said transverse axis.

55. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 54, wherein displacement of the at least a portion of the spinal structure is directionally controlled.

56. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 54, wherein displacement of the at least a portion of the spinal structure is unidirectional.

57. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 54, wherein outward deformation of said at least one transverse projection is selectively controlled to generate a controlled magnitude of force against the at least a portion of the spinal structure.

58. (Currently Amended) ~~Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising: an elongate member extending along a longitudinal axis and including a deformable distal portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and an expanded configuration wherein said deformable distal portion is outwardly deformed,~~ The instrumentation of claim 54, wherein said expanded configuration defines a single pair of transverse projections arranged generally opposite one another along ~~a~~ said single transverse

~~axis, and wherein formation of said pair transverse projections is directionally controlled such that each of said transverse projections extends in a uni-axial direction aligned with said single transverse axis such that at least a portion of the spinal structure is uniaxially displaced along said transverse axis.~~

59. (Currently Amended) ~~The instrumentation of claim 54,~~ Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:

an elongate member extending along a longitudinal axis and including a deformable distal portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and an expanded configuration wherein said deformable distal portion is outwardly deformed to define at least one transverse projection, each of said at least one transverse projection arranged along a single transverse axis, and wherein formation of said transverse projections is directionally controlled such that each of said transverse projections extends in a uni-axial direction aligned with said single transverse axis such that at least a portion of the spinal structure is uniaxially displaced along said transverse axis; and

wherein said elongate member comprises an inner actuator member disposed within an outer sleeve member, a distal portion of said sleeve member being outwardly deformed to define said at least one transverse projection in response to relative displacement between said actuator member and said sleeve member.

60. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 59, wherein said relative displacement between said actuator member and said sleeve member is relative linear displacement.

61. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 59, wherein said relative displacement between said actuator member and said sleeve member is regulated to generate a controlled magnitude of force against the at least a portion of the spinal structure.

62. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 59, further comprising an actuator mechanism coupled between said actuator member and said sleeve member and being

operable to impart said relative displacement therebetween.

63. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 62, wherein said actuator mechanism comprises:

a first portion coupled to said actuator member; and

a second portion coupled to said sleeve member and engaged with said first portion; and

wherein relative rotation between said first and second portions imparts relative linear displacement between said actuator member and said sleeve member to cause said distal portion of said sleeve member to reform from said initial configuration toward said expanded configuration.

64. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 54, wherein said deformable distal portion comprises at least one flexible strip of material, said flexible strip of material having an outwardly buckled configuration defining said at least one transverse projection.

65. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 64, wherein said deformable distal portion comprises a pair of said flexible strips of material disposed generally opposite one another, said pair of flexible strips of material defining a pair of transverse projections disposed generally opposite one another when transitioned to said outwardly buckled configuration.

66. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 64, wherein said flexible strip of material has a predetermined shape to provide controlled transitioning to said outwardly buckled configuration.

67. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 66, wherein said predetermined shape including a series of arcuate portions.

68. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 54, wherein said

deformable distal portion defines a plurality of slots, said slots facilitating outward buckling of said deformable distal portion to define said at least one transverse projection.

69. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 68, wherein each of said plurality of slots has a predetermined shape to provide controlled outward buckling.

70. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 69, wherein said predetermined shape is at least partially comprised of an hour-glass shape.

71. (Withdrawn) The instrumentation of claim 54, wherein said deformable distal portion comprises a plurality of elements flexibly interconnected in series to form a reformable structure, said reformable structure being collapsible to define said initial configuration and reformed to define said expanded configuration.

72. (Withdrawn) The instrumentation of claim 71, wherein said plurality of elements are arranged in a substantially uniform orientation when in said initial configuration, and wherein at least some of said plurality of elements are arranged in a non-uniform orientation when in said expanded configuration.

73. (Withdrawn) The instrumentation of claim 72, wherein said substantially uniform orientation defines a substantially rectangular-shaped profile; and

wherein said non-uniform orientation defines a substantially triangular-shaped profile.

74. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 54, wherein said deformable distal portion is at least partially formed of a shape-memory material, said deformable distal portion being reformed from said initial configuration toward said expanded configuration in response to the imposition of stress and automatically reformed back toward said initial configuration upon removal of said stress.

75. (Previously Presented) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:

an elongate member extending along a longitudinal axis and including a deformable distal portion having an initial relaxed configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and a stressed configuration wherein said deformable distal portion is outwardly deformed to define at least one transverse projection, each of said at least one transverse projection arranged along a single transverse axis, and wherein formation of said transverse projections is directionally controlled such that each of said transverse projections extends in a uni-axial direction aligned with said single transverse axis, wherein said deformable distal portion is controllably transitioned from said initial configuration to said stressed configuration to generate a controlled magnitude of force against at least a portion of the spinal structure such that at least a portion of the spinal structure is uniaxially displaced along said transverse axis.

76. (Currently Amended) The instrumentation of claim 75, wherein said stressed configuration of said deformable distal portion defines a single pair of said transverse projections arranged generally opposite one another along said single transverse axis.

77. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 75, wherein said elongate member comprises a first member and a second member, a distal portion of said second member being outwardly deformed to define said at least one transverse projection in response to relative displacement between said first and second members.

78. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 77, wherein said relative displacement between said first and second members is regulated to selectively control transitioning of said deformable distal portion from said initial configuration to said stressed configuration.

79. (Previously Presented) The instrumentation of claim 78, further comprising an actuator mechanism coupled between said first and second members and being operable to regulate said relative displacement between said first and second members to selectively control said transitioning of said deformable distal portion from said initial configuration to said stressed

configuration.

80.-93. (Cancelled)